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FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

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PRODUCTION OF LUMBER AND OTHER SAWED PRODUCTS IN CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA, 1946 1/

(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

By Richard H. May and Alexander Simontacchi 2/

Lumber production in California in 1946 broke all previous records with a total cut of slightly over 2,681,500 M feet b.m. (including a small amount from Nevada). This is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that a strike closed or curtailed production in the major Redwood Region mills during most of the year. Thus the Pine Region mills more than made up the volume of production lost by the redwood strike. The cut for 1946 is an 18.6 percent increase over that for 1945 and an 8.7 percent increase over that for 1944 -- the previous high year.

Tables 1 to 5, inclusive, present the details of lumber production by species, mill size class, and county. A new feature in this year's Research Note is a map of California showing the approximate location of mills contributing to the record cut of 1946.

Highlights of 1946 Lumber Production

Pine Region production increased 35.4 percent over 1945, or from 1,616,289 M bd. ft. to 2,189,208 M bd. ft. That of the Redwood Region dropped 23.6 percent below 1945, or from 644,503 M bd. ft. to 493,203 M bd. ft.

1/ Preliminary statistics of lumber production in California and Nevada were collected in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce. These data should be essentially correct, since they are based on preliminary tabulations of complete returns. Final statistics will, however, be issued by the Bureau of the Census in the usual manner.

2/ Foresters, Division of Forest Economics, California Forest and Range Experiment Station and Special Agents, Bureau of the Census. Blanche M. Fadie and Evelyn Huzieff, on the clerical staff of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station and Special Agents, Bureau of the Census, assisted in the compilation.

* MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

The number of active sawmills almost doubled as compared with 1945, the increase being 99 percent or from 457 to 909. Active sawmills in the Pine Region increased by 87 percent over 1945 (from 341 to 646), while those in the Redwood Region increased by 127 percent (from 116 to 243). Active shingle mills increased 625 percent, or from 12 to 87. Total active mills of all types increased from 469 to 996, while total idle mills decreased from 123 to 55.

Figure 1 shows graphically the changes in lumber production and in number of active sawmills that occurred in the Pine and Redwood Regions from 1945 to 1946.

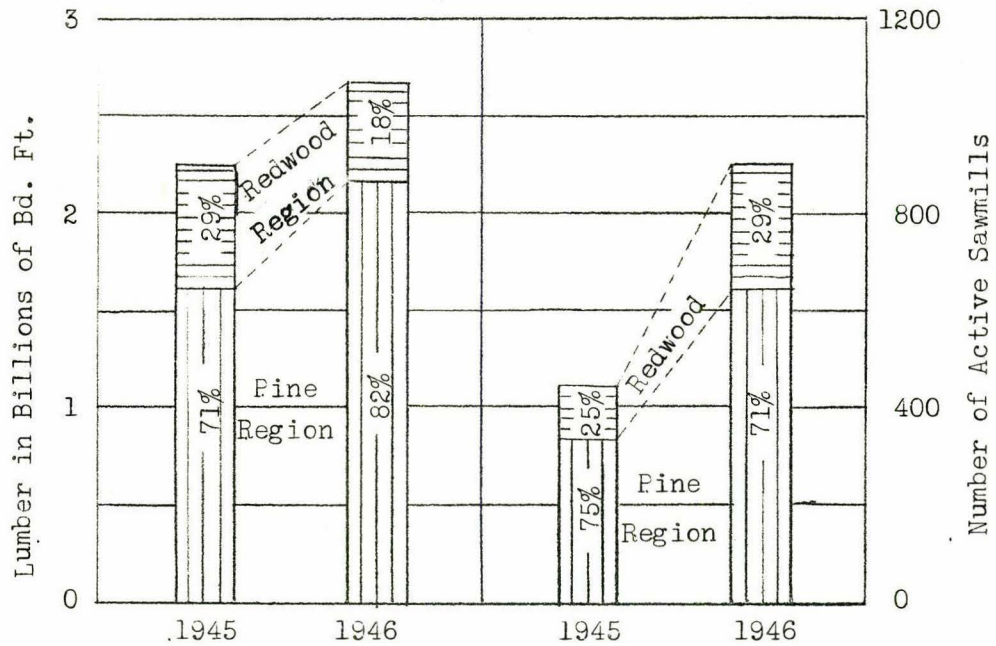

Figure 1. Lumber production and active sawmills in Pine and Redwood Regions, 1945 and 1946

The cut of all species except redwood, Port Orford cedar and the oaks increased. However, in the Pine Region the cut of firs advanced in proportion of total cut at the expense of the pine cut by about 3½ percent, or from 28.5 to 32.2 percent of the regional cut. In the Redwood Region, "whitewoods" (Douglas fir and other species) advanced at the expense of redwood by almost 20 percent, or from 31.1 to 50.8 percent of the regional cut.

The medium-sized and, to lesser extent, the small mills increased in proportion of total cut at the expense of the large mills. For the State 3/ as a whole, Class 3 and 4 mills produced 33 percent of the total cut in 1946, while their proportion in 1945 was 23½ percent. This is most noticeable in the Redwood Region where Class 3 and 4 mills produced 61½ percent of regional cut in 1946 as compared with 23 percent in 1945.

3/ State as here used refers to California primarily, for the Nevada cut, while included, is so small as to be negligible.

Owing to the redwood strike, no mills in the Redwood Region cut into Class 8 in 1946; while Pine Region mills in Class 8 cut less than in 1945, both as to total cut and proportion of cut. On the other hand, Class 7 mills in the Pine Region cut considerably more -- both in amount and percentage of total -- in 1946 than in 1945.

The three Class 8 mills in the Pine Region had a greater aggregate cut than any one county in California.

Siskiyou County regained the lead in production from Humboldt County, which dropped into second place because of the redwood strike. The 10 leading counties listed below accounted for 87½ percent of the State cut, though they contained only 55 percent of the active mills (499 of the total of 909).

County	1946 cut (M bd. ft.)
Siskiyou	293,113
Humboldt	271,545
Plumas	223,729
Lassen	221,485
Eldorado	211,979
Shasta	209,562
Mendocino	144,674
Butte	126,868
Calaveras	111,203
Tuolumne	102,619
	1,916,777

Mills with band headsaws, only 9 percent of the State total as to number, accounted for 60 percent of production by volume, with circular-headsaw mills cutting the remainder.

Lumber stocks had increased 18 percent by the end of 1946 as compared with the end of 1945, indicating the promise of a greater supply of better lumber in the future. This increase was primarily accounted for by Pine Region mills.

Cut of ties, lath and shingles increased over 1945, the lath cut by as much as 116 percent.

The State of Nevada cut only 93 M bd. ft. at three new small mills. The five older mills in that State were idle.

Careful estimates of production through the end of May 1947 indicate that the 1947 cut will exceed that of 1946, possibly by as much as 30 percent, thus forecasting a cut well over three billion bd. ft. for the State.

Table 1. Production of lumber, by species, and of other sawed products California and Nevada 1/ - 1945 and 1946

Species	Lumber production 1945		Lumber production 1946		Change 1946 from 1945
	M bd. ft.	Percent	M bd. ft.	Percent	Percent
Ponderosa pine 2/	914,880	40.5	1,137,026	42.3	+ 24
Douglas fir	372,885	16.5	507,227	18.9	+ 36
White fir 3/	285,638	12.7	386,863	14.5	+ 35
Sugar pine	194,532	8.6	290,758	10.8	+ 49
Redwood 4/	443,806	19.6	243,310	9.1	- 45
Incense cedar	45,655	2.0	62,578	2.3	+ 37
California red fir 5/	--	--	40,044	1.5	--
Sitka spruce	2,328	0.1	7,203	0.3	+ 209
Other pines 6/	10	0.0	4,488	0.2	+ 44780
Port Orford cedar	665	0.0	510	0.0	- 23
Western hemlock 5/	--	--	75	0.0	--
Total softwoods	2,260,399	100.0	2,680,082	99.9	+ 19
Alder	67	0.0	956	0.1	+ 1325
Oak 7/	274	0.0	273	0.0	- 0.5
Other hardwoods 8/	52	0.0	200	0.0	+ 285
Total hardwoods	393	0.0	1,429	0.1	+ 264
GRAND TOTAL	2,260,792	100.0	2,681,511	100.0	+ 19
Active sawmills reporting	457		909		+ 99
Stocks of lumber December 31 (M bd. ft.)	463,624		545,425		+ 18
Sawed ties, M bd. ft. 9/	27,503		33,094		+ 20
Active shingle and lath mills	12		87		+ 625
Lath and carstrips (thousands)	5,651		12,213		+ 116
Shingles and sawn shakes (squares)	89,328		127,997		+ 43

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments in Nevada in 1945.

2/ Includes Jeffrey pine, both years.

3/ Includes some California red fir and western hemlock in 1945.

4/ Includes bigtree, both years.

5/ Not reported separately in 1945 (included with white fir).

6/ Lodgepole pine in 1945. Monterey, Coulter, digger, lodgepole, western white pines in 1946.

7/ Valley white and California black oaks and tanoak in 1945. Valley white, California black, blue and live oaks and tanoak in 1946.

8/ Cottonwood, ash, laurel, and maple in 1945. Cottonwood and laurel in 1946.

9/ Also included under quantity of lumber sawed.

Table 2. Production of lumber by species and mill class, and lumber stocks

Pine Region [1] - California and Nevada, 1946

(Preliminary data subject to revision)

Production size class	Number of sawmills: Active	Number of sawmills: Idle	Lumber sawed by species (M bd. ft.): Ponderosa pine [2]	Sugar pine	Douglas fir	White fir	Incense cedar	California red fir	Other pines [3]	Big-tree	Hardwoods [4]	All species: Quantity	All species: Percent	Lumber stocks (M bd. ft.): Dec. 31, 1945	Dec. 31, 1946
8 (50 MM and over)	3	0	199,338	33,805	17,759	41,662	2,470	4,275	0	0	0	299,339	13.7	48,729	40,280
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	18	0	271,093	134,759	57,296	152,514	12,432	4,366	0	0	0	632,460	28.9	185,932	226,413
6 (15 MM to 25 MM)	16	2	153,785	34,782	37,024	58,498	7,179	15,813	0	0	0	307,081	14.0	71,708	112,960
5 (10 MM to 15 MM)	23	0	117,078	34,566	45,661	57,693	6,257	10,769	0	0	0	272,024	12.4	37,703	39,576
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	38	0	142,665	22,097	42,801	24,489	21,441	1,463	0	0	0	254,956	11.6	26,969	26,011
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	144	2	178,050	25,307	71,303	35,990	10,819	2,040	18	106	85	323,718	14.8	11,501	8,922
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	73	0	31,696	2,911	7,382	6,946	1,083	1,253	280	95	2	51,648	2.4	250	1,927
1 (50 M to 500 M)	225	15	33,209	2,409	5,190	2,940	848	48	381	271	173	45,469	2.1	305	1,446
0 (Under 50 M) Calif.	103	15 [5]	1,783	122	246	146	49	17	9	3	45	2,420	0.1	75	181
0 (Under 50 M) Nevada	3	3 [5]	87	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	93	0.0 [6]	0	0
All Classes: AMOUNT	646	37	1,128,814	290,758	284,662	380,884	62,578	40,044	688	475 [6]	305 [6]	2,189,208		383,172	457,716
All Classes: PERCENT			51.6	13.3	13.0	17.4	2.9	1.8	0.0 [6]	0.0 [6]	0.0 [6]		100.0		

1/ Includes all counties of California not listed in Redwood Region (Table 3, footnote 1). See also map on last page.
2/ Includes Jeffrey pine in eastern and southern counties of California, and in Nevada.
3/ Lodgepole pine 141M, western white pine 6M, Coulter pine 501M, digger pine 40M.
4/ Valley white oak 225M, alder 32M, blue oak 23M, California black oak 23M, coast live oak 2M, and cottonwood 2M.
5/ In addition to Nevada mills listed under Class 0, one idle Class 3 mill and one idle Class 1 mill were located in Nevada.
6/ Negligible; less than 0.05 percent.

Table 3. Production of lumber, by species and mill class, and lumber stocks

California Redwood Region 1/ - 1946

(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Production size class	Number of sawmills		Lumber sawed by species (M bd. ft.)										All species		Lumber stocks (M bd. ft.)	
	Active	Idle	Redwood	Douglas fir	Ponderosa pine	Sitka spruce	White fir	Monterey pine	Port Orford cedar	Western hemlock	Alder	Other 2/ hardwoods	Quantity	Percent	Dec. 31, 1945	Dec. 31, 1946
8 3/ (50 MM and over)	0	0											0	0		
7 3/ (25 MM to 50 MM)	3	0	60,064	29,286	0	3,751	1,933	0	0	0	0	0	95,034	19.3	17,953	21,049
6 and 5 4/ (10 MM to 25 MM)	4	0	22,256	29,527	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	51,847	10.5	9,062	6,888
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	17	1	55,574	66,081	580	0	1,800	0	468	0	0	0	124,503	25.3	16,309	19,028
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	79	0	85,557	77,449	6,738	2,163	1,580	3,599	0	0	800	2	177,888	36.2	36,964	40,343
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	33	0	11,336	11,374	450	0	95	0	42	0	0	0	23,297	4.7	40	97
1 (50 M to 500 M)	93	3	7,564	8,582	444	1,281	507	194	0	75	124	198	18,969	3.8	123	241
0 (Under 50 M)	34	9	484	266	0	8	0	7	0	0	0	0	765	0.2	1	63
All Classes: AMOUNT	263	13	242,835	222,565	8,212	7,203	5,979	3,800	510	75	924	200	~~493,203~~ 492,303		80,452	87,709
All Classes: PERCENT			49.2	45.3	1.7	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.1	0.0 5/	0.2	0.0 5/		100.0		

1/ Redwood region includes counties of Del Norte, western Humboldt, western Mendocino, Sonoma, western Napa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey. (See map on last page).

2/ Cottonwood 193M, California laurel 5M, tanoak 2M.

3/ Classes 8 and 7 have less than normal production this year due to the strike which closed the major redwood mills for 6 months, and kept them at only partial capacity for several months longer.

4/ Classes 5 and 6 combined to avoid disclosure of individual establishments.

5/ Negligible; less than 0.05 percent.

Table 4. Production of ties, lath and carstrips, shingles and sawed shakes
California 1/ - 1946

Region and type of mill	Mills: Active	Mills: Idle	Sawed crossties 2/	Lath and carstrips	Shingles	Sawed shakes 3/
	No.	No.	M ft. b. m.	M pcs.	Squares	Squares
PINE						
Sawmill 4/	--	--	27,086	9,090	100	0
Lath or shingle mill	42	2	0	1,828	25,489	0
Region total	--	--	27,086	10,918	25,589	0
REDWOOD						
Sawmill 4/	--	--	6,008	261	6,217	91
Lath, shingle or shake	45	3	0	1,034	82,766	13,334
Region total	--	--	6,008	1,295	88,983	13,425
STATE TOTAL	87	5	33,094	12,213	114,572	13,425

1/ None produced in Nevada.
2/ Ties, 9 ft. and less in length, which are also included in quantity of lumber sawed in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5.
3/ Shakes sawed on one side split on other; also known as "Hollywood" shakes, "Monterey" shakes, or "shingle-shakes."
4/ Lath, shingle, or shake machine in conjunction with sawmill.

Table 5. Production of lumber by counties and species

California and Nevada - 1946

(Preliminary data subject to revision)

State / County	No. of active sawmills	Lumber production by species (M bd.ft.) Ponderosa pine 1/	Douglas fir	True firs 2/	Sugar pine	Redwood 3/	Cedar 4/	Sitka spruce	Other softwoods 5/	Hard-woods 6/	Total	Change from 1945 Percent
REDWOOD REGION												
CALIFORNIA												
Del Norte	15		14,206	10		36,692	114	2,616	75	10	53,723	+ 141
Humboldt (W)	93	20	137,806	5,392		110,755	396	4,587		222	259,178	- 35 9/
Marin - Napa (W) 7/	3	50	531			4,889					5,470	— 10/
Mendocino (W)	85	8,142	58,224	577		67,437				892	135,272	- 26 11/
Monterey	5					719			3,793		4,512	— 12/
San Mateo	6		708			3,664					4,372	+ 48
Santa Clara	3		370			695					1,065	+ 82
Santa Cruz	25		2,698			13,744			7		16,449	+ 61
Sonoma	28		8,022			4,240					12,262	+ 245
Region Total	263	8,212	222,565	5,979		242,835	510	7,203	3,875	1,124	492,303	- 24
PINE REGION												
CALIFORNIA												
Amador - Sacramento 7/	17	33,919	3,543	14,532	17,166		5,835				74,995	+ 55
Butte	44	39,993	20,671	37,270	26,339		2,595				126,868	+ 35
Calaveras	41	55,088	11,204	24,596	17,067		3,248				111,203	+ 18
Eldorado	65	114,161	19,979	36,293	29,612		11,926		8		211,979	+ 47
Fresno	21	16,465		11,171	9,808	80	140				37,664	+ 95
Glenn - Colusa	3	224	6	800	7						1,037	— 10/
Humboldt (E)	7	60	12,032		250		25				12,367	— 9/
Inyo - Alpine 7/	3	7,702		5,776					20		13,498	— 10/
Kern - San Luis Obispo 7/	5	1,130	100 8/	382	80		12			2	1,706	— 10/
Lake	9	6,335	4,617		26					225	11,203	+ 49
Lassen	11	155,881	3,085	48,585	11,505		2,429				221,485	- 10
Madera	20	13,746		4,756	3,311		178				21,991	+ 17
Mariposa	34	17,257		525	2,488		405				20,675	+ 140
Mendocino (E)	8	2,612	5,026	1,090	670		4				9,402	— 11/
Modoc	9	81,248		9,765			450				91,463	+ 56
Napa (E)	4	274	459								733	— 12/
Nevada	45	46,808	7,131	13,280	4,567		2,264			10	74,060	+ 278
Placer	26	22,547	11,005	5,446	1,102		618		1	1	40,720	+ 68
Plumas	28	68,404	44,320	61,413	35,849		13,643		100		223,729	+ 24
Riverside - Ventura 7/	7	913	200 8/	407	276		123				1,919	— 10/
San Bernardino	7	1,369		72	8		7		26		1,482	+ 108
San Diego	7	653		469	13		280		475	31	1,921	+ 668
Shasta	43	98,723	43,414	31,653	27,106		8,609		40	17	209,562	+ 50
Sierra	11	28,441	6,947	12,604	4,681		238		15		52,926	+ 19
Siskiyou	40	178,703	37,146	33,603	42,201		1,460				293,113	+ 9
Tehama	14	18,427	5,095	5,946	5,628		1,542			12	36,650	+ 148
Trinity	29	13,270	20,298	96	2,164		38				35,866	+ 101
Tulare	20	15,296		22,236	7,130	395	1,814		3	4	46,878	+ 99
Tuolumne	34	48,733	1,511	19,507	29,741		3,124			3	102,619	+ 73
Yuba	31	40,345	26,873	18,649	11,963		1,571				99,401	+ 72
NEVADA												
Douglas - Clark 7/	3	87		6							93	- 97
Region Total	646	1,128,814	284,662	420,928	290,758	475	62,578		688	305	2,189,208	+ 66
GRAND TOTAL	909	1,137,026	507,227	426,907	290,758	243,310	63,088	7,203	4,563	1,429	2,681,511	+ 19

1/ Includes Jeffrey pine, in some pine region counties.
2/ In Redwood Region: Lowland white fir (Abies grandis). In Pine Region: White fir (Abies concolor) and California red fir (Abies magnifica).
3/ In Redwood Region: Coast redwood. In Pine Region: Bigtree.
4/ In Redwood Region: Port Orford cedar. In Pine Region: Incense cedar.
5/ In Redwood Region: Western hemlock 75M, and Monterey pine 3800M. In Pine Region: Lodgepole pine 141M, western white pine 6M, digger pine 40M and Coulter pine 501M.
6/ In Redwood Region: Alder 924M, cottonwood 193M, laurel 5M and tanoak 2M. In Pine Region: Valley white oak 225M, alder 32M, blue oak 23M, California black oak 21M and coast live oak and cottonwood 2M each.
7/ Combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.
8/ "Dunnage", or old timbers.
9/ Humboldt W and Humboldt E combined for percentage computation.
10/ In different combination in 1945.
11/ Mendocino W and Mendocino E combined for percentage computation.
12/ No production in 1945.

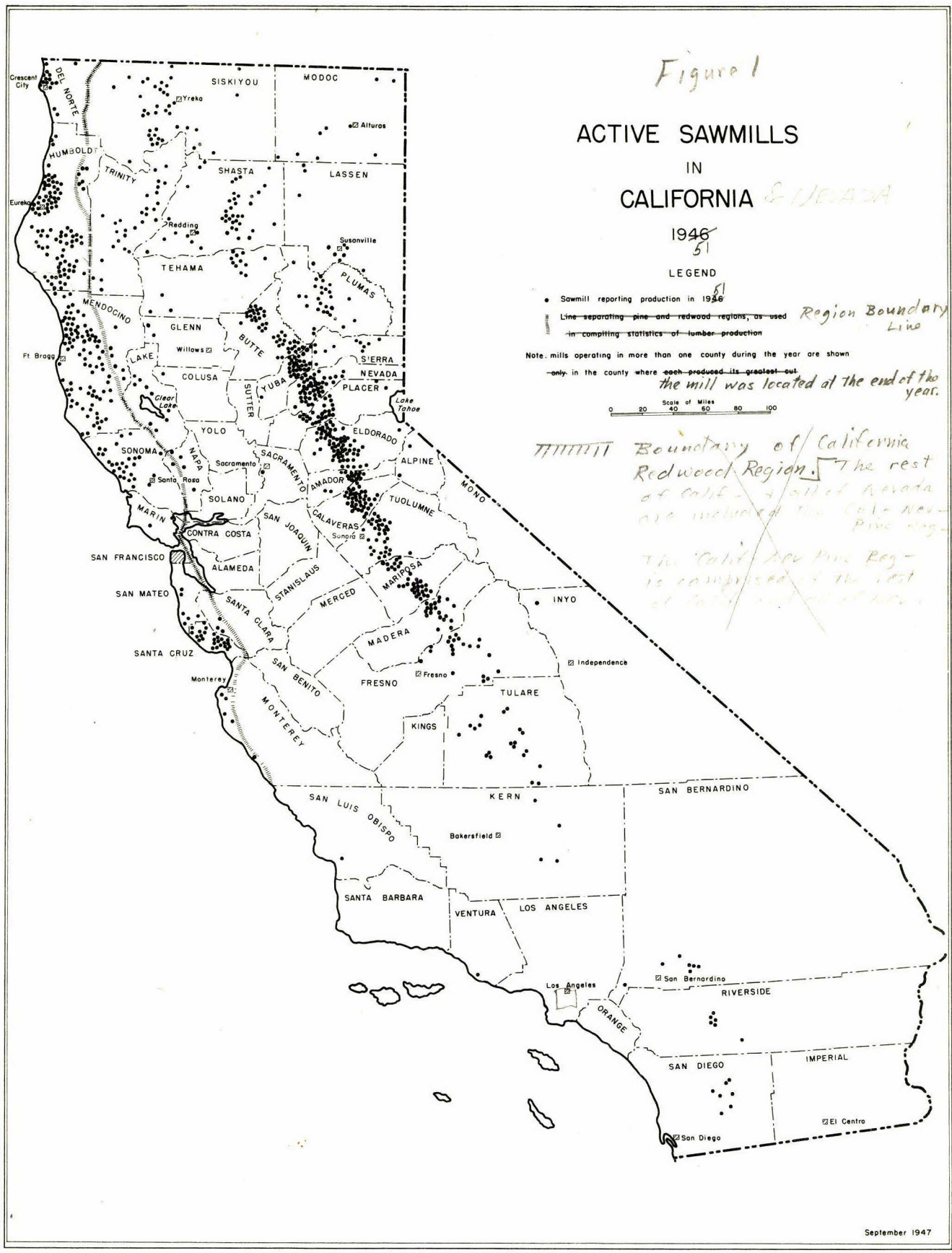
Figure 1
ACTIVE SAWMILLS
IN
CALIFORNIA & NEVADA
1946
51
LEGEND
Sawmill reporting production in 1946
Line separating pine and redwood regions, as used in compiling statistics of lumber production
Region Boundary Line
Note. mills operating in more than one county during the year are shown only in the county where each produced its greatest cut.
the mill was located at the end of the year.
Scale of Miles
0 20 40 60 80 100
Boundary of California Redwood Region. The rest of Calif. + all of Nevada are included the Calif-Nev Pine Region
The Calif-Nev Pine Region is composed of the rest of
(1)
(2)
Crescent City
DEL NORTE
HUMBOLDT
Eureka
Ft. Bragg
MENDOCINO
TRINITY
SISKIYOU
MODOC
Yreka
Alturas
SHASTA
LASSEN
Redding
Susanville
TEHAMA
PLUMAS
GLENN
Willows
BUTTE
LAKE
Clear Lake
COLUSA
SUTTER
YUBA
SIERRA
NEVADA
PLACER
Lake Tahoe
YOLO
ELDORADO
SONOMA
NAPA
Santa Rosa
Sacramento
SACRAMENTO
AMADOR
ALPINE
MONO
SOLANO
TUOLUMNE
MARIN
CONTRA COSTA
SAN JOAQUIN
CALAVERAS
Sonora
SAN FRANCISCO
ALAMEDA
STANISLAUS
MARIPOSA
SAN MATEO
MERCED
INYO
SANTA CLARA
MADERA
SANTA CRUZ
Independence
Fresno
FRESNO
SAN BENITO
TULARE
Monterey
MONTEREY
KINGS
KERN
SAN BERNARDINO
SAN LUIS OBISPO
Bakersfield
SANTA BARBARA
VENTURA
LOS ANGELES
San Bernardino
Los Angeles
RIVERSIDE
ORANGE
SAN DIEGO
IMPERIAL
El Centro
San Diego
September 1947